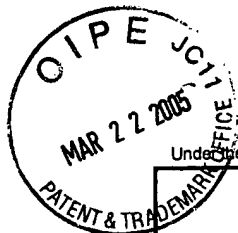


03-23-05

TAN RCE
3627

PTO/SB/30 (09-04)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal Address to: MS RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	Application Number	09/977,746-Conf. #3552
	Filing Date	October 15, 2001
	First Named Inventor	David Llewellyn Mallis
	Art Unit	3627
	Examiner Name	E. K. Nicholson
	Attorney Docket Number	09432/183002

22511
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE**This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.**

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____

ii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☒ Enclosed

i. ☒ Amendment/Reply

ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

iv. ☐ Other _____

2. **Miscellaneous**

a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

b. ☐ Other _____

3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. _____. I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet.

i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)

ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)

iii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed

c. ☒ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Signature		Date	March 22, 2005
Name (Print/Type)	Jeffrey S. Bergman	Registration No.	45,925

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV562271792US, in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: March 22, 2005

Signature:

(Toni A. Hill)



U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/977,746
Attorney Docket No. 09432/183002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Mallis, *et al.*

Art Unit : 3679

Serial No.: 09/977,746

Examiner : E. Nicholson

Filed : October 15, 2001

Confirmation No.: 3552

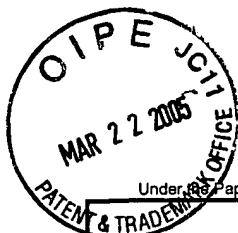
Title : WEDGE THREAD WITH TORQUE SHOULDER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Submission Accompanying Request For Continued Examination

In response to the final Office Action dated December 22, 2004, please amend the application as follows and consider the included remarks.



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no person are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Effective on 12/08/2004. Fees pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (H.R. 4818).		Complete if Known	
FEE TRANSMITTAL For FY 2005		Application Number	09/977,746-Conf. #3552
		Filing Date	October 15, 2001
		First Named Inventor	David Llewellyn Mallis
		Examiner Name	E. K. Nicholson
		Art Unit	3627
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27		Attorney Docket No.	09432/183002
TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT		(\$)	790.00

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit Card
<input type="checkbox"/> Money Order	<input type="checkbox"/> None
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please identify): _____	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deposit Account	Deposit Account Number: 50-0591 Deposit Account Name: Osha & May L.L.P.
For the above-identified deposit account, the Director is hereby authorized to: (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Charge fee(s) indicated below	<input type="checkbox"/> Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge any additional fee(s) or underpayment of fee(s) under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit any overpayments

FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING, SEARCH, AND EXAMINATION FEES

Application Type	FILING FEES		SEARCH FEES		EXAMINATION FEES		Fees Paid (\$)
	Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee (\$)	Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee (\$)	Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee (\$)	
Utility	300	150	500	250	200	100	
Design	200	100	100	50	130	65	
Plant	200	100	300	150	160	80	
Reissue	300	150	500	250	600	300	
Provisional	200	100	0	0	0	0	

2. EXCESS CLAIM FEES

Fee Description	Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee (\$)
Each claim over 20 (including Reissues)	50	25
Each independent claim over 3 (including Reissues)	200	100
Multiple dependent claims	360	180

<u>Total Claims</u>	<u>Extra Claims</u>	<u>Fee (\$)</u>	<u>Fee Paid (\$)</u>	<u>Multiple Dependent Claims</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	<u>Fee (\$)</u> <u>Fee Paid (\$)</u>
_____ - = _____ x _____ = _____				_____
<u>Indep. Claims</u>	<u>Extra Claims</u>	<u>Fee (\$)</u>	<u>Fee Paid (\$)</u>	
_____	_____	_____	_____	
_____ - = _____ x _____ = _____				

3. APPLICATION SIZE FEE

If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper (excluding electronically filed sequence or computer listings under 37 CFR 1.52(e)), the application size fee due is \$250 (\$125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).

Total Sheets	Extra Sheets	Number of each additional 50 or fraction thereof	Fee (\$)	Fee Paid (\$)
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ - 100 = _____ / 50 _____ (round up to a whole number) x _____ = _____				

4. OTHER FEE(S)

Non-English Specification, \$130 fee (no small entity discount)

Other (e.g., late filing surcharge): **1801 Request for continued examination (RCE) (see 37 ... 790.00**

SUBMITTED BY			
Signature		Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	45,925
Name (Print/Type)	Jeffrey S. Bergman	Telephone	(713) 228-8600
		Date	March 22, 2005

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV562271792US, in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: March 22, 2005

Signature: (Toni A. Hill)

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE